Peter Lay

Speak slowly enough for the judge to understand.

Don’t use jargon or any flow directions.

Emphasis is key to communicating with lay judges. Make your eyes bigger, use hand gestures, and speak while looking into their eyes. Rhetoric is more important than the actual arguments.

You should never ever give the judge a reason not to vote for you. That means always be polite. Do not be a jerk in cross-examination. Present yourself in a very straight-edge way. Recharacterize your opponent’s arguments in ways that benefit you.

The things you emphasize strategically are different: don’t overly emphasize framework or drops. Cross-examination matters because it is the interaction of competitors.

How to judge judges pre-round: Look to see how they’re flowing. Assess laptop versus separate sheets and also the style of separate sheets.

If you think you have a conservative in the back of the room, act differently than for democrats and others.

Marxists: Wearing military surplus clothing is equivalent to further left. Try to tailor what you emphasize to their ideals.

Lawyers: These tend to be men for whatever reason. Keep in mind that legal oriented judges love to hear background information on the topic. The unique danger, however, is that if you argue legalities incorrectly, they will flagrantly intervene against you.

Early-College Students: These people like to hear very philosophical arguments that tend to the left.

Parliamentary: Either a poor high school debater or somebody who did not compete in high school. There is American and National, however. American is much slower and rhetorical, but National is essentially policy-light.